

AMENDMENTS IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended) A method for providing to a ~~one or more~~ contributor[[s]] information related to the goods and/or services offered by the contributor and one or more other the contributors, the method comprising the steps of:
 - a. compiling ~~the~~ information related to the goods and/or services offered by the contributor and the one or more other contributors;
 - b. creating an information database of the compiled information, wherein the information database is segregated ~~for each of the contributors~~ into a first information group of the information related only to the contributor ~~an individual contributor seeking access to the information database~~ and a second information group of the information related to the one or more all other contributors; and
 - c. enabling ~~each of the one or more~~ the contributors to access its own first information group, and to access information of the second information group without permitting ~~any of the one or more contributor[[s]]~~ to determine which of the one or more other contributors provided what information of the second information group, provided the information accessed from the second information group includes a defined minimum amount from the one or more other contributors.
2. (Currently amended) The method as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the information includes goods product and/or service features, sales information, pricing information, demographic information, and time period information obtained from the one or more contributors, other non-contributor parties, or a combination of both.
3. (Currently amended) The method as claimed in Claim 1 further comprising the step of denying to ~~a particular~~ the contributor access to selected information from the second information group if ~~that particular~~ the contributor does not provide to the information database the same type of selected information of its own.

4. (Currently amended) The method as claimed in Claim 1 further comprising the step of enabling the ~~one or more~~ contributor[[s]] to access and query the database directly for specific market information of interest.

5. (Currently amended) The method as claimed in Claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

- a. enabling ~~each of the one or more~~ the contributor[[s]] to define a query of the compiled information based on individual portions of the information or selectable combinations of individual portions of the information to create unique outcomes; and
- b. generating statistics based upon the outcomes obtained based upon the query.

6. (Currently amended) The method as claimed in Claim 5 wherein the step of generating statistics includes ~~for each contributor performing such step~~ the steps of:

- a. calculating statistics related only to the first information group;
- b. determining with respect to the second information group that a defined minimum amount of the information related to the particular query made by the querying contributor exists; and
- c. presenting to the querying contributor ~~statistical~~ information only for defined information of the first information group and of the second information group that meets the restriction of step b.

7. (Original) The method as claimed in Claim 1 further comprising the step of storing a portion or all of the output of any query of the database.

8. (Original) The method as claimed in Claim 1 further comprising the step of transferring a portion or all of the output of any query of the database to an electronic spreadsheet.

9. (Currently amended) The method as claimed in Claim 1 further comprising the step of enabling a the contributor to supplement information of the first information group with

selectable information of its own such that the selectable information is accessible only by ~~that~~ the contributor.

10. (Original) The method as claimed in Claim 1 further comprising the step of enabling the storage of attributes of a query for subsequent retrieval.

11. (Original) The method as claimed in Claim 10 further comprising the step of enabling the retrieval of a stored query and its re-use or its modification to create a new query.

12. (Currently amended) The method as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the step of enabling ~~each~~ the contributor to access its own first information group and to access information of the second information group without permitting ~~any of the one or more~~ contributor[[s]] to determine which of the one or more other contributors provided what information of the second information group includes the steps of:

- c1. in response to a query from a the contributor, determining with respect to the second information group that a defined minimum amount of the defined information related to the particular query exists; and
- c2. presenting to the ~~querying~~ contributor the requested information only for defined information of the second information group that meets the restriction of step c1.

13. (Currently amended) The method as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the step of enabling ~~each~~ the contributor to access its own first information group and to access information of the second information group without permitting ~~any of the one or more~~ contributor[[s]] to determine which of the one or more other contributors provided what information of the second information group includes the step of establishing rules of access to information of the second information group.

14. (Currently amended) The method as claimed in Claim 1 wherein a the contributor seeking access to the information database does so through a graphical user interface represented on a

display of a computing device through which the contributor accesses the information database, the method further comprising the step of configuring one or more outputs of the information accessed into summary representations.

15. (Original) The method as claimed in Claim 1 further comprising the step of configuring the graphical user interface to present a summary depiction of database query options and queries made.

16. (Original) The method as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the information database includes a plurality of cells of information organized based on values, the method further comprising the step of configuring one or more outputs of the information accessed into summary representations organized by parameter.

17. (Original) The method as claimed in Claim 16 further comprising the step of establishing rules for suppressing certain ones of the plurality of cells for summary representation.

18. (Currently amended) The method as claimed in Claim 1 further comprising the step of configuring one or more query options for a the contributor to query the information database for display on a computer display in a format that eliminates from display a query option not applicable to the defined portion of information to be queried.

19. (Currently amended) The method as claimed in Claim 1 further comprising the step of configuring a computer program to enable querying of the information database by a the contributor, analysis of the information acquired in a query, and reporting of the information, wherein the program may operate on a computing system of the contributor independent of any other programs running on the same computing system.

20. (Currently amended) The method as claimed in Claim 1 further comprising the step of establishing standardized query formats and output formats selectable by the ~~querying~~ contributor.

21. (Original) The method as claimed in Claim 1 further comprising the step of presenting database information obtained from a query into a format relating the contributor's corresponding information from the first information group to corresponding information of the second information group.

22. (Currently amended) The method as claimed in Claim 1 further comprising the steps of enabling a the contributor to query the information database for information of interest and limiting query options to be consistent with values of the information database.

23. (Currently amended) A method for providing to contributors in one or more industries market information related to the offerings made by the contributors, such market information including market information of contributors and non-contributors, the method comprising the steps of:

- a. surveying each contributor for defined public and private product and/or services information;
- b. compiling the defined public and private product and/or services information obtained from all surveyed contributors and market information from non-contributors;
- c. creating for each contributor an information database of the defined public and private product and/or services information obtained from all contributors and the market information of the non-contributors, wherein each contributor's information database is segregated into a first information group of an individual contributor's particular defined public and private product and/or services information and a second information group of the compiled defined public and

private product and/or services information of all other contributors and of the market information of the non-contributors; and

- d. enabling each contributor to access its own first information group and to access information of the second information group without permitting ~~any of the one or more~~ that contributor[[s]] to determine which of the other contributors provided what information of the second information group, provided the information accessed from the second information group includes a defined minimum amount from the other contributors.

24. (Original) The method as claimed in Claim 23 further comprising the step of configuring an output according to one or more parameters unique to a particular querying contributor as defined by that querying contributor.

25. (Original) The method as claimed in Claim 23 further comprising the step of enabling the contributors to access and query the database directly for specific market information of interest.

26. CANCELLED.

27. (New) The method as claimed in Claim 25 further comprising the step of denying to a querying contributor access to selected information from the second information group if the querying contributor does not provide to the information database the same type of information of its own subject of the query.

28. (New) The method as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the contributor is enabled to access either or both of its own first information group and the second information group through an authorized user.

29. (New) The method as claimed in Claim 23 wherein each contributor is enabled to access either or both of its own first information group and the second information group through an authorized user.

30. (New) A method for providing to a contributor information related to the goods and/or services offered by the contributor and one or more other contributors, the method comprising the steps of:

- a. compiling the information related to the goods and/or services offered by the contributor and the one or more other contributors;
- b. creating an information database of the compiled information, wherein the information database is segregated into a first information group of the information related only to the contributor and a second information group of the information related to the one or more other contributors; and
- c. enabling the contributor to access its own first information group, and to access information of the second information group without permitting the contributor to determine which of the one or more other contributors provided what information of the second information group, and provided the contributor has provided to the information database information of the same type sought from the second information group.

31. (New) The method as claimed in Claim 30 wherein the contributor is enabled to access either or both of its own first information group and the second information group through an authorized user.